THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

New Flying Institute at Gondia

1507. SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to establish Rajiv Gandhi National Flying Institute at Gondia in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the reasons for selecting remote area of Gondia for setting up of Flying Institute;

(c) whether Government have taken the permission of Cabinet for setting up this Institute;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government would consider other accessible places as well in consultation with other State Governments for setting up of the Institute and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Gondia has some unique positional advantages. Its remote locations has an added advantage of least interference from other airlines operations and availability of airspace around Gondia for trainee aircraft operations of the institute round-the-clock. Further, it is a district headquarter and geographically located at almost the center of India and has an operational Birsi airfield located about 76 Nautical Miles East of Nagpur Airport. This renders the opportunity of lesser investment due to existing availability of infrastructure and smoothness of trainee aircraft operations.

(c) and (d) The proposal at present, is at appraisal stage.

(e) As of now Central Government has Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi at Rae Bareli in Uttar Pradesh, which is a premier flying

training institute. After inception of the proposed institute, the demand of pilots can be met with the help of other existing flying clubs. There is no proposal at present to set up another institute under the aegis of the Central Government in any other part of the country.

Second international airport in Punjab

1508. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any final decision has been taken to identify the site where the second international airport is likely to be set up in Punjab; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Modernisation of airports in Tamil Nadu

1509. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken for the modernisation of airports in the State of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the amount involved, time-period fixed and the progress made so far in regard to the implementation of the modernisation projects;

(c) whether there is any proposal to open more airports in the State in developing cities like Salem; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.